

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

May 11, 2015

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: RONNIE DIXON, RAYMOND TURNER, CECIL THOMPSON, BRIAN FROST, LISA CHESSER, AND EDDIE TYSON

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, MELISSA MOORE - ADMIN ASSISTANT, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, FRANK WAITS –VPD, JOHN KOON- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, JEFF WEST – ESG, JAMES O’NEAL – ESG, BRIAN SIKES – FIRE CHIEF, TOMMY SASSER – RECREATION DIRECTOR

MAYOR DIXON BROUGHT THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00p.m.

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: BILL TORRANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS: - None

DVA: - Paula brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. She reported that the DVA made \$2500.00 on Saturday during the Onion Festival. Given the rain, she felt it was very successful. She also stated that the Downtown Music Festival planning was now taking place, and that Jason Colbert wanted to be at this meeting to discuss the plans, but was sick and unable to attend. She informed the Council that he would be at the June meeting.

VCVB – Alexa Britton gave an update of the activities of the Vidalia Convention and Visitors Bureau. She reported that she was working on an economic impact study based on the 2015 Onion Festival. She reported that the Museum year to date had had 1965 visitors. These visitors represent 34 States and 6 Countries. She also presented the Summer Concert Series line up as of May. June 6th will feature the “Headliners”, a beach music band from Hilton Head, along with activities for children. On July the 4th the “Georgia Ride” band will perform, and this event will hopefully have a fireworks display.

ONION FESTIVAL – Bill Torrance presented a report on the City wide costs of the Onion Festival. He stated that he had all departments include time spent on festival activities only, and that when compiled the number was \$65,387.12. (See Attached Report)

TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber. He reported that the Showcase for Toombs Montgomery was very successful, and that the new speck building was completed. He also updated the Council on the problem of natural gas and the lack of service in our area.

FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD - Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of April. A motion was made by Councilwoman Chesser to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -A motion was made by Councilman Frost to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2015 meeting. Councilman Turner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

AGENDA

1. **Donation of \$2000.00 to the Air Show Committee** – Mayor Dixon presented for approval the donation of \$2000.00 to the Onion Festival Air Show. The funds would come from legislative capital. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the donation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous.
2. **Graduation Ad on Vidalia Communication** – Mr. Torrance presented a request from Vidalia Communications to place an Ad in May congratulating this year’s graduates. The cost of the Ad is \$185.00 and would come from general fund advertising account. Councilwoman Chesser made a

motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

3. **Fireworks Ordinance Addition – HB -110** – Mr. Torrance presented the new fireworks law to the Council for their review. He is recommending that Reid Threlkeld review and provide input into any necessary ordinance changes. When this review has been completed Councilwoman Chesser, Chairwoman of the License and Permits Committee, will call a meeting of her committee to discuss and bring a recommendation to the Council. This is for information only and requires no action by the Council tonight.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT –

Mr. Torrance presented a request from the United Way for the city to place two teams in the upcoming golf tournament to be held on May the 21st. The cost would be \$1000.00 Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to approve one team at \$500.00 and to take it from the Council's legislative budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Torrance presented a request from the Census Bureau to help spread the word on a pilot program that is internet based, and could help improve the response from citizens in the 2020 census. He informed the Council that the Census had a table set up at the Friday night street dance during the Festival to help get the word out. Councilwoman Chesser stated that she would help by spreading the web link on her face book page. The Council was in agreement to help in any possible way, but with an end of May deadline felt that not much could be done.

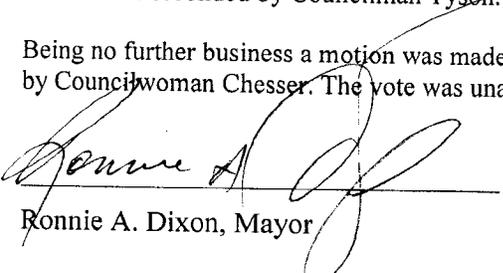
Mr. Torrance presented a request to purchase a new diesel Kubota mower at \$12,000.00. The Kubota was not the lowest priced mower, but the Street Department was adamant that the Kubota is far superior to the Hustler, which is \$2000.00 less. Mr. Torrance explained that the money was in the capital budget for 2015, but wanted to bring this request to the Council for approval. Councilman Frost made a motion to approve the purchase of the new Kubota at \$12,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

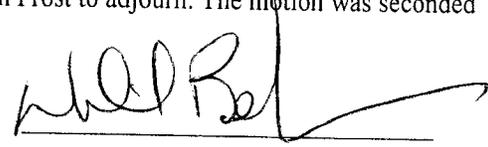
Mr. Turner made a request to close Poe Street in June for a block party for the children that is held every year. He did not have the actual date, but informed the Council that it would be before the next Council meeting so he was asking for their approval when he got the official date. The Council was in agreement to allow the closing.

A motion was made by Councilman Turner to adjourn and enter executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilman Frost to adjourn from executive session and enter open session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

Being no further business a motion was made by Councilman Frost to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.


Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor


William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

**Onion Festival Cost to City
2015**

Department	Total
Fire	\$ 6,180.00
Police	\$ 15,501.39
Recreation	\$ 5,397.30
Airport	\$ 4,018.51
Admin	\$ 8,307.29
Tourism	\$ 15,202.57
ESG	\$ 10,780.66

Total

\$ 65,387.72

CITY OF VIDALIA
AFFIDAVIT AS TO OPEN MEETING LAW

The undersigned chair or presiding officer, under oath, certifies that a meeting of the Mayor and Council held on the date identified below being the date of this document, the Board closed its meeting as permitted by the Open Meetings Act of Georgia. The only matters considered or discussed during the closed portion or executive session of its meetings is as checked below:

- Staff meetings held for investigative purposes under duties or responsibilities imposed by law.
[O.C.G.A. §50-14-3]
- Meetings when discussing or deliberating upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring disciplinary action or dismissal or periodic evaluation or rating of a city official or an employee. (Note: The final vote if made is open to the public.)
[O.C.G.A. §50-14-3 (6)]
- To consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the City or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved;
[O.C.G.A. §50-14-2]
- To discuss the future acquisition of real estate;
[O.C.G.A. §50-14-3 (4)]

This the 11th day of May, 2015.

CITY OF VIDALIA
By: Ronnie A. [Signature]
Mayor or Presiding Officer

Sworn and subscribed before me on the
above indicated date
Notary Public, State of Georgia
Commission Expires 2/18/19
[Signature]
CARY MARIE WILLIAMS
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

(Although this is not mandatory, the following participants concur with the accuracy of this Affidavit.)

[Signature] _____

[Signature] _____

[Signature] _____

Note: This form is to be used on all meetings of the City of Vidalia when four (4) or more council members are present.

Vidalia City Council Meeting

NAME	ADDRESS
Alexa Britton	Vidalia CVB
Melina Moore	City
Bill [unclear]	